

Preface

Since 1997, the Louisiana Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (LaPRAMS) has served as a source of vital information needed to improve the health status of mothers and infants in Louisiana. We are pleased to present the eighth annual LaPRAMS Surveillance Report, which is a compilation of LaPRAMS results for various MCH indicators.

LaPRAMS is a population-based survey of women delivering a live-born infant. Data collected via LaPRAMS can be used by program planners, healthcare leaders and providers to design and/or implement programs and services, which strengthen women and children's health in Louisiana. These data can also enable health officials to monitor the state's progress towards meeting Healthy People 2010 objectives for mothers and infants, in such areas as breast-feeding, unintended pregnancy, maternal smoking, teen births, alcohol consumption, and use of prenatal services. Finally, LaPRAMS data can provide our state and local governmental policy makers with evidence for better decision making and planning when developing programs and policies aimed at reducing health problems among mothers and babies.

This current report highlights data for births occurring in 2004. In 2004, there were 63,572 live births satisfying the LaPRAMS inclusion criteria reported in the state of Louisiana. Of which, 2,384 were included in the LaPRAMS sample. Thus, the LaPRAMS sample size represents approximately 3.8% of live births in the state. Subgroup analyses are presented by age, race, education, marital status, birth weight and Medicaid status.

We trust this report will be useful to program planners, policymakers and other healthcare leaders across the state of Louisiana in reducing infant morbidity, mortality and low birth weight by impacting maternal behaviors during pregnancy and early infancy.



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Contents

Preface

Acknowledgements

Section I:	Prenatal Care	
	Prenatal Care Fact Sheet.....	1
	Prenatal Care Initiation	
	Source of Prenatal Care	
	Prenatal Care Counseling	
	Demographic Characteristics.....	5
Section II:	Family Planning	
	Family Planning Fact Sheet.....	6
	Pregnancy Intention	
	Birth Control Use	
	Demographic Characteristics.....	10
Section III:	Tobacco and Alcohol Use	
	Tobacco and Alcohol Use Fact Sheet.....	11
	Pre-pregnancy Tobacco Use	
	Tobacco Use During Pregnancy	
	Current Tobacco Use	
	Pre-pregnancy Alcohol Consumption	
	Alcohol Consumption During Pregnancy	
	Tobacco Demographic Characteristics.....	15
	Alcohol Demographic Characteristics.....	16
Section IV:	Stressful Events	
	Stressful Events Fact Sheet.....	17
	Pre-delivery Stressors	
	Physical Abuse	
Section V:	Maternal Health	
	Maternal Health Fact Sheet.....	20
	Medical Problems During Pregnancy	
	Hospitalization	
	Depression	
	Dental Care	
	Folic Acid Knowledge	
	Pregnancy Services	
Section VI:	Infant Health	
	Infant Health Fact Sheet.....	24

Contents

	Hospitalization	
	Sleep Position	
	Smoke Exposure	
	Safety	
	Co-Sleeping	
	Insurance	
	Child Care	
Section VII: Breastfeeding		
	Breastfeeding Fact Sheet.....	28
	Breastfeeding Duration	
	Hospital Breastfeeding Practices	
	Demographic Characteristics.....	32
Section VIII: Finances		
	Finances Fact Sheet.....	33
	Annual Household Income	
	Income Sources	
	Source of Payment-Prenatal Care	
	Source of Payment-Delivery	
	Demographic Characteristics.....	36
Section IX: Special Populations		
	Special Populations Fact Sheet.....	37
	Pre-pregnancy Insurance Coverage	
	Pre-pregnancy Medicaid Coverage	
	WIC Enrollment	
 Appendices		
A.....	PRAMS Methodology	
B.....	Technical Notes	
C.....	PRAMS Eligible Population	
D.....	Birth Certificate Variables	
E.....	Missing Data	
F.....	Phase V Telephone Questionnaire	